

## Introduced by Senator Ducheny

February 18, 2003

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An act relating to water.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 277, as introduced, Ducheny. Salton Sea: Colorado River water.

Under existing law, the United States Department of Interior supplies Colorado River water to certain public entities in the state. Existing law authorizes various public entities to carry out responsibilities concerning the Salton Sea.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations concerning the restoration of the Salton Sea and California's entitlement to the use of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The Salton Sea is a valuable asset to the state and the nation.  
4 Protection of this national resource is the responsibility of the state  
5 and the nation.

6 (b) The search for alternatives for carrying out the restoration  
7 of the Salton Sea in connection with the implementation of a  
8 proposed water transfer will help ensure that California can live  
9 within its entitlement to the use of 4.4 million acre-feet of  
10 Colorado River water. The implementation of the interim surplus



1 guidelines and the maintenance of a stable water supply for  
2 California are essential to improving California's economy.

3 (c) It is important to the State of California to do all of the  
4 following:

5 (1) Promote a comprehensive plan that protects and improves  
6 the long term viability of the Salton Sea and surrounding areas,  
7 including fish and wildlife resources, air and water quality, and  
8 recreational opportunities.

9 (2) Increase public awareness and support for protecting the  
10 long term health of the Salton Sea ecosystem.

11 (3) Promote the Salton Sea as an integral part of the Pacific  
12 Flyway, Colorado River, Colorado River Delta, and historic Lake  
13 Cahuilla.

14 (4) Coordinate and collaborate with organizations working to  
15 protect and restore other ecosystems connected to the Salton Sea.

